

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

2 FEBRUARY 1984

Lebanon

Military/Security Situation — Several soldiers and civilians were killed in artillery exchanges between the Army and opposition forces around Beirut on 1 February, according to reports by Beirut radio. Meanwhile, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon said the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) has placed its forces on maximum alert. Voice of Lebanon radio reported that Syrian and Libyan armored vehicles have moved westward toward the Ash-Shuf from the Al-Biq'a valley.

An IDF spokesman, in an announcement carried by ITIM, said Israeli security forces have captured 15 "terrorists," including a village shaykh, responsible for several attacks on the IDF.

Junblatt View — The security plan is a "waste of time" and a "decisive battle" is inescapable since a solution with the Phalangists is impossible, PSP leader Walid Junblatt declared in a speech broadcast by his party's clandestine radio station, the Voice of the Mountain. Sharply criticizing the use of the Lebanese Army to further the "covetous designs" of the Al-Jumayyil family and the Phalange Party, Junblatt said Lebanon needs a "serious political solution" that would dissolve sectarian barriers, redistribute wealth more equitably, and align the country with Syria.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd will begin a visit to France on 4 February in accordance with an invitation from President Francois Mitterrand, the Royal Court announced in a statement carried by SPA.

In another development, Crown Prince 'Abdallah sharply criticized U.S. policy in Lebanon while addressing a U.S. delegation, Riyadh radio reported. Asserting that he does not comprehend the role of the Marines in Lebanon, 'Abdallah said it is a "sheer shame" that U.S. forces are there to protect "certain individuals" and to implement a policy based on "wrong advice." He also condemned "undeclared designs" behind the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation agreement that "are directed against the interests of the Arab nation."

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Mali on 1 February and was received by the president, General Moussa Traore, according to Bamako radio. On the other hand, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio said 'Arafat was in Sudan after holding talks with King Hassan II in Rabat the previous night. According to the radio, 'Arafat and Hassan discussed the "positive results" of the ICO delegation's visit to Egypt.

PLO spokesman Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman welcomed Egypt's return to the ICO and said Egyptian support will strengthen the PLO and allow it to "enter the world from its widest door," WAKH reported. He added that it is "too early" for the PLO to consider shifting its headquarters from Tunis to Cairo. Meanwhile, Israel has banned Palestinians in the occupied territories from going to Jordan to meet with 'Arafat when he arrives there, according to Jerusalem television.

Jordan

King Husayn arrived in London on 1 February en route to the United States for medical tests, Amman radio reported.

Israel

The coalition was defeated in the Knesset by a vote of 48 to 46 on a motion dealing with the establishment of a Jewish community in Hebron, Jerusalem radio reported. In a separate development, a public call-up exercise is to be held soon to test the efficiency of the full IDF call-up method, the radio announced.

Iran-Iraq War

An Iraqi military spokesman, in a statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio, warned residents of seven Iranian cities near the border that "chosen targets" within the cities will be struck "after 6 February." The spokesman urged Iranians to move from the cities in order to avoid "our missiles and bombs."

Iranian "military sources" cited by IRNA denied that Iraq had destroyed five "naval targets" in the Khowr-e Musa area on 31 January. The Iranian military communique for 1 February, broadcast by Tehran radio, did not mention a second attack on Iranian naval forces in the same area on 1 February or claims that Iraq had destroyed three Iranian targets.

Iran

Any action undertaken by the Iraqi regime around Khark Island will meet with a "severe response" from Iran in the Strait of Hormuz, Revolution Guards Corps Commander Mohsen Reza'i reaffirmed in an interview cited by IRNA. Forces dispatched to the southern Iranian islands are armed and kept on "full alert" to safeguard the area, the commander added. He also expressed satisfaction with the combat readiness of forces stationed in Hormozgan Province, IRNA reported.

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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BAKHTAR: U.S. Torpedoing Indian Ocean Parley*LD020611 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 2 Feb 84*

[Text] Kabul, February 1, BAKHTAR: In accordance with a UN general assembly resolution, an international conference on the Indian ocean is to be convened no later than the first half of 1984. This seems to be the cause of the haste with which the Washington administration has been recently inventing ever new pretexts for torpedoing that conference.

The statement by US ambassador to India Harry Barnes has been another such attempt. Upon arrival in Calcutta he told journalists that there was "the main obstacle" to making the Indian ocean a zone of peace, and that was the unsettled problem of Afghanistan.

Such statements by the US ambassador amazingly lack logic because his suggestion for linking the establishment of a zone of peace with the Afghan problem stands no comparison with facts. And here are the facts: As far back as 1971 the declaration of the Indian ocean as a zone of peace was adopted by the United Nations on non-aligned countries' initiative. There was no Afghan problem whatsoever at the time, for it was created only after the April 1978 revolution when the United States tried to reverse the revolutionary events in Afghanistan with the help of mercenary bands. Yet from the outset the materialization of the declaration met with US opposition, for it interfered with the implementation of that country's militarist plans.

And there is nothing surprising in that, for the UN declaration pointed out such overriding aspects of the future zone of peace as the dismantling of foreign military bases in the Indian ocean area, and the non-deployment of nuclear weapons there.

Hence the Afghan problem has nothing to do with it. Meanwhile the illogical trick of US Ambassador Harry Barnes was an attempt to deceive the world public. In fact, Harry Barnes is trying to lay his country's fault at somebody else's door when he says that the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan is allegedly "the main obstacle" to making the Indian ocean a zone of peace. The perverted logic of the US diplomat says, the expansion of US military bases' network is not the main obstacle, nor is the concentration of US aircraft carriers in the Indian ocean. The obstacle is, you see, a limited contingent of Soviet land troops, now in a country which strictly speaking does not belong to that region, and on the request of the legitimate Afghan government, at that.

Under the cover of such propagandist tricks the USA keeps building up its military presence in that region. It is not into a zone of peace, but into a zone of its military domination that the United States wants to turn the Indian ocean by concentrating its strategic forces there, stationing its rapid deployment force, and setting up its new military bases and modernizing those already there. This tells all the sundry that the USA wants its armed forces to stay for a long time in a peace-zone-to-be.

This is also corroborated by Harry Barnes' statements. "As long as the Afghan problem remains," the US ambassador moaned hypocritically, "it is difficult for the United States to do anything about" the Indian ocean problem. But this problem would not

exist, were it not for Washington artificially preventing its solution. A US CIA secret memorandum, as has been learned recently, bluntly says that the USA wants the undeclared war against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan to be further escalated. At the same time the United States actively opposes the diplomatic efforts made within the United Nations to achieve a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan. The newspaper *WASHINGTON POST* said that the USA would never endorse the key theses of the agreement on a political settlement, even if the remaining controversial issues are solved.

It follows then that the US linking of the Indian ocean problem with the Afghan one is not only a propagandist trick, but a new provocative attempt to hinder the turning of the Indian ocean into a zone of peace.

SPA: 40 Civilians Killed in Zabol Province*LD012149 Riyadh SPA in English 1906 GMT 1 Feb 84*

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 1 (SPA) — About forty Afghan civilians were killed on January 15, when the Soviets carried out savage aerial bombing of Afghan mujahideen hideouts in Bori village near Qalat-Ghilzai, capital of Afghanistan's south-eastern Zabol Province, AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS (AAP) reported here today.

The agency claimed mujahideen ground fire downed a Soviet Mig aircraft during the bombing raid.

Actions Against Counterrevolutionaries Reported*LD301858 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Jan 84*

[Text] The dens of counterrevolutionaries throughout the country are being crushed by the country's vigilant Armed Forces, and our beloved homeland is being cleansed of the filthy existence of traitors.

An operation recently carried out by our revolutionary forces in (Khasmas) and (Kala Lig), Faryab Province, crushed a counter-revolutionary band headed by Jura. Three of these treacherous elements were wounded and 40 assorted weapons including rocket launchers, heavy machine guns, Egyptian and Chinese Kalashnikovs, and 10,000 rounds of ammunition were seized by the security forces.

According to another report, an operation carried out in (Tor Bakhtu), Faryab Province, inflicted heavy blows on the counter-revolutionaries, and the enemies of the peace and prosperity of this village were punished for their shameful actions.

Bandits Captured*LD311141 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 31 Jan 84*

[Text] Kabul, January 30, BAKHTAR — Counter-revolutionaries, these lackeys of internal and international reaction are receiving ever more decisive blows by the security forces of the DRA in recent days.

A BAKHTAR correspondent from Paktika Province reports that in the mopping up operations there a number bandits belonging to the so-called "Hezbe Islami" were captured by the security forces yesterday.

The reporter adds that, seized from these miscreants were 400 machineguns, 2 wireless communication apparatuses, 14 rocket launchers, 2 mortars, 35 hand grenades, 4 trucks, 45 stores of clothes, food and ammunition, 200 mortar shells, 7,600 shells of heavy field gun, 969 rockets, 260 anti-tank mines, about 2,000 anti-personnel mines and 400 kilograms of explosives along with large amounts of documents and propaganda materials revealing their links with the enemies of the April Revolution abroad.

In the Enjil district of the Herat Province the security forces have crushed 20 and wounded 25 of these terrorists who were disturbing peaceful life in that district.

Reports from Arghastan district of Qandahar Province say, seized from bandits there were three trucks carrying military hardware. The five bandits who were in these trucks were killed while resisting the security forces.

Also ten miscreants were crushed in Vardak Province, leaving 5 heavy machinegun, 5 rocket launchers, 2 trucks, and three depots of foodstuff behind.

A number of 303 rifles, 6 heavy machineguns and 4 anti-tank mines, were confiscated in an operation of the security forces in Qara Bagh district of Kabul Province yesterday.

Reports from Marmol of Balkh Province indicate that during cleansing operations in that area south-east of Mazar-e Sharif, a fieldgun, 3 anti-tank mines, 4 anti-personnel mines, 2 wireless communication apparatuses which were made in Japan were seized.

Momentum Gained

*LD312109 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT
31 Jan 84*

[Text] In light of the new phase of improving work, an important element of which is the final speedy elimination of counterrevolutionary bands, this process has gained unprecedented momentum. And with the passing of every day, fatal and crushing blows are dealt them by the security forces.

According to a BAKHTAR report, as a result of a successful operation recently carried out by security forces in the villages of Chak-e Wardag District, Wardag Province, more than 23 traitors to the homeland and people, who belong to counterrevolutionary bands were crushed and 2 82-mm mortars; 1 recoilless gun; 2 DShK machine guns; 31 assorted light American, Chinese, and Egyptian weapons; 48 mortars; 10 antitank mines; 40 rounds of ammunition for rocket launchers; 4,800 rounds of DShK ammunition; 16 boxes of assorted ammunition; 3 spare DShK barrels; and a foodstuffs and clothing store were seized and a committee belonging to the so-called Etehad-e Islami bands, together with four enemy strongholds, were destroyed.

According to another report, during a fresh operation which took place 29 January in the villages of Marmol District, Balkh Province, 24 of the soldout elements were crushed and 1 DShK machine gun; 2 U.S.-made and Egyptian-made weapons; 17 antipersonnel mines; 3 mortars; 11 antitank mines; 2 rocket launcher missiles; 2,450 rounds of assorted ammunition; 2 binoculars; 16 hand grenades; a fuel depot; a clothing depot; and many propaganda leaflets were seized from them.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports from Takhar Province that during the purging of the villages and districts of Eshkamesh and Bahrak Districts of Taloqan city, Takhar Province recently, a number of rebels were killed and 1 DShK; 10 assorted weapons; 2 [word indistinct]; 1 rocket launcher; and 8 antitank mines were seized by the vigilant security forces of the districts.

Also, as a result of another operation carried out by security forces in the Jogra, Jgartan, Qafaslan, and Eslam Ali Districts of Herat Province, 10 counterrevolutionary murderers were crushed; 9 assorted weapons belonging to them were destroyed.

As a result of another successful operation which took place in the villages of Komak District, Ghawr Province, a large number of traitors to the homeland and people who had disrupted peaceful life in those villages, were crushed. Three of them, together with 4 assorted weapons, were captured.

According to another report from Kama District of Nangarhar Province, fatal blows were inflicted on the rebels as a result of which a number of them were captured together with assorted weapons. Also, during another operation which recently took place in the Mir Hacha Kot District, a large number of counterrevolutionaries and plunderers were arrested together with substantial documents. The BAKHTAR report adds that during a successful operation carried out yesterday in Shakardar and Ali Khwja villages by the security forces, a large number of traitors to the homeland and people were eliminated and a Chinese rocket launcher with 6 missiles and a large quantity of American, Chinese, and Egyptian weapons were seized from them.

Cleanup Continues

*LD011953 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT
1 Feb 84*

[Text] The BAKHTAR correspondent reports from Qandahar Province that in the continued cleanup of rebels in this province, 240 of these criminals were gunned down recently in (Serzari), (Ashoka), (Khaja Mohammad), (La'l Mohammad), and (Fyz Mohammad) regions in a successful operation by the country's security forces with the cooperation of the noble people of these regions. Various weapons, propaganda leaflets, and a motorcycle were seized from them. One meeting room and six trenches of the enemy were totally destroyed.

According to another report from Herat Province, as a result of the operation of the vigilant security forces carried out in (Shendand) District, 20 of these traitors to the homeland and revolution were gunned down.

As a result of another successful operation launched by courageous security forces in Faryab Province, 45 rebels were shot dead and 32 of them were captured in (Khasmas) village. Various weapons were seized from these robbers and murderers.

As a result of a courageous operation of the security forces of Badghis Province carried out in (A'mala) and (Kondolan) villages, a number of the rebels were crushed and 10 of these criminals were captured.

As a result of another operation recently carried out in (Deh-yaqoub), (Behdadi) and (Lako) villages, Shakardarreh District, [Kabul Province] five of the counterrevolutionary elements belonging to the so-called Hezb-e Islami were captured. One rocket launcher with six rounds of shells, five Chinese Kalashnikovs, and one 7.62-mm rifle were seized from them.

As a result of an operation launched by the security forces in the heights of Marmol and (Tang-e Shoran) and in the village of (Aban), Balkh Province, 17 rebels were shot dead.

Voice of Islamic Revolution on Fighting

GF310816 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1700 GMT 31 Jan 84

[Text] Our Muslim revolutionary brothers inflicted losses on the troops of the joint forces of the Soviet usurpers and the Babrak Karmal puppet regime. During two military operations in Paktia Province, five of the members of the combined Red Army and the Karmal regime were killed by our Muslim revolutionaries.

In other operations in this province, our Muslim revolutionaries killed three other members of the joint forces and two others were taken prisoner.

In Herat, our Muslim revolutionary brothers attacked a (?patrol) group and one center of the Soviet occupationist and Karmal forces and inflicted losses and casualties on them.

According to reports from the camps of the brothers and sisters of our Muslim revolutionaries in the Pakistan-Afghanistan border areas, the airplanes of the Soviet occupationist and Karmal forces bombed this region and killed more than 50 Muslims, wounding many others. The imposed regime of the Red forces in Afghanistan has not broadcast any news about this bombing.

Paktia, Herat Provinces

GF020634 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1700 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Summary from poor reception] Our Muslim revolutionary brothers in several operations against the Red Army and the Karmal puppet regime inflicted heavy losses and damages on them.

Paktia: Our Muslim revolutionaries attacked a position of the Soviet and Karmal forces in the Paktia Province and totally destroyed this position. In another operation, the Muslim revolutionaries attacked several centers of the Soviet occupying forces and killed over 15 enemy soldiers.

Herat: Our Muslim revolutionary brothers killed five enemy soldiers in an attack in Herat Province.

Six Officers Reported To Have Escaped to Pakistan

GF310825 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1700 GMT 30 Jan 84

[Text] The names of six more high-ranking officers have been announced. They fled the inferno of the Karmal regime and the Red forces after the recent victories of our Muslim revolutionaries and also following the stepping up of repressive operations by the Soviet occupationist forces against our Muslim people.

Their names are Rahmatollah 'Atefi, a deputy secretary of (?protocol) of the Karmal regime's Foreign Ministry; General Mohammed Rahim and Lieutenant Commander Mohammad 'Aziz, commandants of camps of the regime; Mir Zaman Mohammad, officer of (?this brigade) of the Armed Forces of the Karmal regime; Fazal Rahim, director of the security cadre of Kabul [as heard]; and Professor Mohammad Hashem, staff member of Kabul University.

These six people, who arrived in Pakistan via Peshawar, explained the (?conditions under) the Karmal regime and the Soviet occupationist forces in detail at a press conference [words indistinct] and declared that as a result of the resistance and struggle of our people and the Muslim revolutionaries, the Karmal regime has been severely debilitated.

Ershad Meets Parties From National Front

BK010934 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT
1 Feb 84

[Text] President Ershad held further talks last night as a part of his parley with political leaders to reach a consensus on important national issues. He held discussions with a 23-member team of 11-party National Front headed by its chairman, Mr Ataur Rahman Kha. The Front parties were KSP [Krishak Sramik Party], National Awami Party-Bhashani, Islamic Democratic League-(Shafique), Liberal Democratic Party, Hindu Ekata Sangh, Nikhil Bangladesh Muslim League, Bangladesh Democratic Party, Social Democratic Party, Jana Gonotantrik Dal, and Islamic Biplabi Parishad. Of them, six parties held separate talks with the president on earlier occasions.

Talks were also held with the leaders of the Khilafat-i-Rabbani Party led by its secretary general, Mr A. K. M. Raquiqullah Chowdhury.

During their 90-minute talks, the Front leaders said the president should strive to reunify the nation under the banner of Bangladeshi nationalism. They further demanded that Islamic ideals and values should be the basis of the national life. They explained that Islam is a complete code of life.

Coming to the issues of dialogue, the Front leaders said the president and parliamentary elections should be held on one day, possibly in November this year. They demanded open politics from the 3d week of this month, and called for free press. They, however, pointed out that free press should not be construed as a free license.

The leaders demanded that persons convicted under martial law and by martial law courts should have the right of appeal to the highest level courts. They also demanded release of political prisoners, but stated that the number of political prisoners, which is from 23 to 26, is the all time low since 1947.

The leaders of Khilafat-i-Rabbani Party demanded that Islam should be made the state ideology. Educational, cultural, and social systems should be made Islamic-oriented. They demanded parliamentary poll before any other elections, but did not specify any date for it. They supported the concept of upazila [subdistricts], but demanded that it should not be implemented before it is approved by the new Parliament.

They demanded the formation of a national government with patriotic elements.

In the talks, the president was assisted by his special assistance, Mr A. R. Yusuf; the agriculture minister, Mr A. Z. M. Obaidullah Khan; the education minister, Dr A. Majid Khan; the home minister, Major General Abdul Mannan Siddique; and the general staff to the chief martial law administrator, Major General N. A. Chisty.

Awami League Declaration Termed 'Threat'

BK311354 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER
in English 26 Jan 84 pp 1, 16

[Text] "Farakka and Border Incursions Resistance Committee" at a meeting held on Monday with Mrs. Amena Begum, its convener, in the chair, expressed concern over the resolution adopted by Bangladesh Awami League recently on the question of expulsion of Soviet diplomats from Bangladesh, says a press release of the Committee issued on Wednesday. It termed the Awami League resolution as the threat to sovereignty and independence of the country.

In another resolution, the committee demanded that South Talpatty issue should be raised at the United Nations. It further expressed its concern over the unilateral survey of South Talpatty by India.

Singh, Gandhi Receive Arab League's Klibi

BK311659 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
31 Jan 84

[Text] The secretary general of the League of Arab States, Mr Chedli Klibi, has expressed his deep gratitude to India for its continued support to the Arab cause. Mr Klibi called on the president, Giani Zail Singh, at Rashtrapati Bhawan [President's House] today and briefed him on the outcome of the recent Islamic summit.

Mr Klibi later met the vice president. He also met the prime minister and told her that the Arabs are looking to India for a speedy restoration of peace in West Asia.

Mrs Gandhi referred to India's traditional friendship with Arab countries. She hoped that an equitable solution to the Palestinian problem will be found and peace will be restored in the region. About the Iran-Iraq conflict, the prime minister said that she has been in touch with the leaders of both the countries. Mrs Gandhi assured Mr Klibi that she is doing everything possible to resolve the conflict.

Pakistan's Release of 52 Indian Prisoners Noted

BK020504 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
2 Feb 84

[Text] A batch of 52 Indian prisoners in Pakistani jails were repatriated to India yesterday. The prisoners were handed over to the Indian authorities at the Wagah border by Pakistani officials. The prisoners will be provided medical treatment and traveling facilities to enable them to reach their homes. They had been detained in Multan, Bahawalpur, Karachi, and Lahore jails.

Gandhi Envoy Meets TULF Leader 1 February

BK011617 Hong Kong AFP in English 1414 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 1 (AFP) — The leader of Sri Lanka's main Tamil party met here today with India's special envoy to Colombo to discuss the recent roundtable conference on the island republic's racial problems, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reported.

Appapillai Amirthalingam, secretary general of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), said in Madras yesterday that he was disappointed the conference had produced no concrete results.

He arrived here today from Madras for meetings with special envoy Gopalaswamy Parthasarathy and other Indian Government leaders. No official details of their talks have been given.

Mr Parthasarathy was appointed by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to help mediate in finding settlement to Sri Lanka's racial problems following violence between the Tamil minority and the Sinhalese majority in July which left almost 400 people dead and 100,000 homeless. He played a crucial role in bringing about the conference.

Sri Lankan Official Optimistic on Ethnic Issue

BK020502 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
2 Feb 84

[Text] The Sri Lanka rural industries development minister, Mr S. Thondaman, has expressed the view that the roundtable conference will find a solution to the ethnic issue. He was talking to newsmen in Madras. Mr Thondaman said the first session of the conference last month made a good beginning. They succeeded in bringing all groups together to discuss the problem. The minister, who is also the leader of the Ceylon Workers' Congress, said the Tamil demands have to be considered as they are just and reasonable.

Akali Dal Leader Admits Rift Within Party

BK011725 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
1 Feb 84

[Text] The Akali Dal president, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, has said that he is firmly committed to communal harmony and peace and does not approve the line of action suggested by Sant Bhindranwale as it runs counter to the principles of the Sikh religion. No way, he said the scriptures provide for killing of people. He was speaking to newsmen in Amritsar.

Sant Longowal admitted his fundamental differences with Sant Bhindranwale on policy matters, particularly the mode of the present agitation.

Kashmir Minister Defends Arrest of Politicians

BK011637 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
1 Feb 84

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir assembly today passed a motion of thanks for the governor's address to the joint session of the legislature. Replying to the 3-day discussion, the chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, said that his government will not permit any activities in the state aimed at weakening the country and its territorial integrity.

Justifying the recent arrests of the Jamaat-I-Islami leaders in the Kashmir valley, the chief minister said those arrested were propagating ideas which endangered the country's integrity. Dr Abdullah said the country was facing dangers and all of us should be vigilant.

Rail, Road Situation in Karnataka Improves

BK020452 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
2 Feb 84

[Text] In Karnataka, there was improvement in rail and road traffic yesterday which has been disrupted for the last 6 days as a result of the statewide agitation by farmers. Road traffic on the Bangalore-Mysore Highway was resumed and the Bombay-bound Mahalakshmi Express [train] had an undisturbed journey for the first time in 6 days.

Military Sources Deny Naval Targets Destroyed

GF011705 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 1 IRNA — Military sources today denied Iraq's claims that it had destroyed five Iranian naval targets in the Persian Gulf yesterday. The sources contacted by IRNA said normal traffic was underway in the Persian Gulf.

Guards Corps Commander Tours Hormozgan Province

Checks Combat Readiness

LD011320 Tehran IRNA in English 1050 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Bandar Abbas, Feb. 1, IRNA — Commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), Mohsen Reza'i, who is on a tour to Hormozgan Province, inspected the local Guard Corps and the Persian Gulf shipyard there on Monday.

The IRGC commander later met with revolution guards of the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea Fleet, and expressed satisfaction over their combat readiness. He also expressed appreciation for their activities and acts of devotion.

In another development the IRGC chief visited Larak Island and Lingeh Port to inspect the readiness of the Guard Corps members there.

Promises 'Severe Response'

LD012151 Tehran IRNA in English 2023 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 1, IRNA — The commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, Mohsen Reza'i in an interview published in the Persian daily *ETTELA'AT* today outlined the aim of his recent visit to the Hormozgan Province, southern Iran.

Reza'i said the Iraqi regime with the go-ahead from both superpowers had announced that it intended to take action in the Khark Island and some other places in the Persian Gulf using its French and Soviet made missiles. These absurd threats, Reza'i added, prompted Imam Khomeyni as well as other Iranian officials to announce that any such action would meet severe response from the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Strait of Hormuz.

To drive home this stern warning the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps immediately despatched forces to the southern Iranian islands where they were stationed, armed and kept at full alert to safeguard the islands as key positions for protecting the Strait of Hormuz, he said.

The action, said the IRGC commander, reiterated to the world that the Persian Gulf states were the ones responsible for defending the legitimate rights of the Muslims in the Strait of Hormuz which was one of the most strategically important straits in the world.

At the same time, added Reza'i, the superpowers realised that they could not bluff great nations such as the Iranian nation out of the scene and make them retreat.

In another part of the interview the IRGC commander pointed out that the Bandar 'Abbas and the Hormuz Strait region was strategically sensitive and safeguarding it was like protecting the interests of all the Muslim nations.

Not only did the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran strike fear in the hearts of the enemy but it also deprived them of the opportunity to make any moves, he said.

Referring to the Azadi Quds (liberation of Jerusalem) maneuvers scheduled to be carried out between February 9 to February 12, Reza'i stressed that unlike what the enemies of the Islamic revolution had claimed the maneuvers were merely aimed at rehearsing and consolidating the organisation of the 20 million strong army as part of the "Labbayk Ya Khomeyni" (assent to Imam Khomeyni) plan, and posed no threats for any country whatsoever.

Ground Forces Commander Visits Esfahan Troops

GF011906 Esfahan Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 31 Jan 84

[Text] Colonel Sayyad-Shirazi, commander of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, along with some of his aides, arrived in Esfahan last evening and was received by the military commanders stationed there. This morning, the Ground Forces commander attended the morning prayers which were held at the garrison of the support unit of the Esfahan Airborne Division. He addressed the personnel of this garrison. During these ceremonies he introduced pilot Colonel Mohammad Ansari as commander of the support unit of the Airborne Division Garrison of Esfahan.

This afternoon, Col Sayyad-Shirazi, along with all the commanders of the Airborne Division and some of the officials in charge of the ideological-political departments of the army, called on Ayatollah Khademi, head of the Esfahan seminary. In this meeting, Col Sayyad-Shirazi addressed the gathering on the subject of war and fronts.

In the course of this meeting, after the noon and afternoon prayers, Ayatollah Khademi referred to the active participation of the personnel of the Airborne Division in the promotion of the revolution and prior to the revolution. He addressed the audience: "It was this unity and solidarity of all the people of the country — both military and civilian — which helped in the promotion of the revolution in the 10-Day Dawn on the arrival of Imam Khomeyni. I hope that the same unity, which I now discern among you brothers, will continue so that, with the holy aid which is now being given to our dear combatants on the fronts from the Almighty God, we may throw out this filthy body from the region and bury in dust the enemy of Islam and the holy Koran, the criminal America, and all other world superpowers. You should rest assured that God is the master of everything."

In conclusion, the head of the Esfahan seminary prayed for the victory of the combatants and a long life for Imam Khomeyni, great leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,622

*LD011731 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT
1 Feb 84*

[Communique No 1,622 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] Yesterday in the northwestern operational sector, thanks to our forces fire on the supply axes and positions of the Iraqi forces, four trucks loaded with troops and several enemy slit trenches and foxholes were destroyed and a number of their troops were killed.

Sporadic fire exchange continued in the western operational sector. Our forces, while monitoring enemy movements, opened fire on positions, infiltration routes, and concentration points of enemy infantry troops and prevented the Saddamist troops from carrying out any operations.

Fire exchange continued in the southern operational sector and was more intense in the Shalamchah, Kushk, and Zubaydat regions. Our patrol and ambush groups in these fronts set ablaze several of the enemy's infantry trenches and equipment and killed or wounded a number of Iraqi troops. Yesterday, our combatants stationed on the banks of the Arvand Rud destroyed six enemy slit trenches and foxholes and observation posts on the western side of the river. Also yesterday, 11 shops were damaged in Abadan as a result of the enemy's long-range artillery fire.

IRNA Reports Damages From Iraqi Attacks

LD312115 Tehran IRNA in English 2017 GMT 31 Jan 84

[Text] Ahvaz, Jan. 31, IRNA — Two civilians were martyred and four others wounded today as Abadan's residential quarters were hit by the heavy weapons fire of the Iraqi forces. The attack also damaged some residential units.

The Iraqi long-range artillery fire hit six more residential units and shops during Monday.

In the course of the 40-month old Iraqi imposed war, Iranian residential areas have many times been attacked by the enemy deploying various weapons such as artillery shells, missiles and aerial bombs. In these attacks, some 4,000 civilians have been martyred and about 17,000 others injured. These attacks have also devastated over 1,200 villages in addition to inflicting damages ranging from 20 to 100 percent upon the inhabited areas of Iranian cities.

Jerusalem Maneuvers Discussed at Cabinet Meeting

GF011759 Tehran IRNA in English 1652 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 1, IRNA — The latest developments in the country and political events in the region were discussed in the cabinet ministers meeting presided over by Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, here today.

The deputy commander of the Islamic Revolutions Guards Corps (IRGC), 'Ali Shamkhani, attended the session and reported on

the objectives, stages and ways of the Quds [Jerusalem] liberation maneuvers, which is to be carried out in over sixty different parts of the country from February 9-11.

The maneuvers would be carried out in continuation of the Labbayk Ya Khomeyni (assent to Imam Khomeyni) plan and would include the IRGC and Basij members with combat experience.

The prime minister while stressing the importance of the maneuver, said that the executive organisations of the country should cooperate in this great task.

During the meeting, minister of Ershad Eslami, Mohammad Khatami, presented a report on his participation in the recently concluded conference of information ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Speeches Mark Anniversary of Khomeyni's Return

Ayatollah Montazeri

*LD011456 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT
31 Jan 84*

[Text] Grand Ayatollah Montazeri gave a speech this morning on the eve of the anniversary of the first 10 Days of the Dawn of the revolution, at the conclusion of an extra-canonical lecture on the subject of the day of the arrival of the leader of the revolution in the country and the developments that followed which changed the country's destiny.

In connection with the fundamental changes that evolved thanks to the revolution, he graciously said: The profundity of the revolution becomes crystal clear if we bear in mind the remarks of our enemies. It is why both East and West deem the Islamic Revolution to be the biggest obstacle to their interests and why they have united in order to smash it.

In connection with the importance of the war issue and the need to bring it to a victorious conclusion, he graciously said: During this 10 days of the dawn of the revolution, the commanders and those responsible for the fronts are expected to make serious decisions and not to devote all their time to making speeches and holding meetings. They should entrust such tasks to old men and those individuals who cannot go to the fronts, and they should make arrangements so that during this occasion of the 10 Days of the Dawn of the revolution the forces they need could be dispatched to the fronts. If they wish to make speeches they should go to the fronts and speak to our combatants there so as to uplift them.

With regard to the dispatch of the clergy to the fronts, he graciously emphasized: News often reaches us from the fronts to the effect that our clerical brethren are greatly needed. Therefore, my request to the scholars and clergy is that they take advantage of the opportunity of the holidays of the 10 Days of Dawn and, as far as possible, go to the fronts to give guidance to our dear, intrepid combatants and resolve their religious and intellectual needs. Of course, one does not expect our clerical brethren to fight or carry arms. If the gentlemen clergy can keep

Islam's combatants in good cheer and determined and solve their religious problems, they will be carrying out the most important task. Here we call on the Islamic publicity office of the Qom religious seminary to make immediate arrangements whereby — God willing — the brethren will be able to go to the fronts during this anniversary period and carry out their duties.

In connection with the need for administrative changes, he graciously said: I hope that on this occasion of the 10 Days of Dawn, responsible government officials will meet and decide on expediting the people's business and on abolishing administrative bureaucracy, thereby preparing the groundwork for a giant revolution in this connection so that — God Almighty willing — the aims of the revolution will be carried out and the people will not be kept waiting and discontented. It has often been heard that even for a small matter, people are sent from one department to another and from one desk to another. I think that by making a revolutionary decision this state of affairs should be investigated as soon as possible.

In connection with the lack of coordination in certain institutions, culminating in a decline in our forces and the employment of extra, unnecessary personnel, Grand Ayatollah graciously said: I think that in order to prepare the rural areas and raise production levels, the foundation of the meek, the reconstruction jihad, the housing foundation, and responsible agricultural officials should cooperate with each other; they should mobilize their forces, capabilities, and personnel for the purpose of reviving and imparting capabilities to the rural areas. Instead of securing services and welfare possibilities for the cities they should improve rural housing, sowing and production means, and the revival of wasteland so that the rural population is not forced to come to the cities every day, thus leaving the rural areas empty while the cities become more congested, simply to obtain cheaper bread and housing and avail themselves of urban services. At one time, better bread, meat, and other needed commodities were more plentiful and cheaper in the rural areas — we should bring about certain circumstances whereby such a situation will return. For as long as it does not pay a citizen to stay in rural areas to sow foodstuffs, the rural population will continue to come to the cities. God willing, during this occasion of the 10 Days of Dawn, the government will decide to solve this problem which to my mind is our most important problem after the issue of the war.

Referring to the cooperation of scholars and clergy in religious seminaries with the judicial authorities, he graciously emphasized: The gentlemen may remember that during the former regime a policeman or NCO could rule over them and not allow them inside the courts. Instead, impious individuals were judges in those courts, who controlled lives, properties, and honor. Therefore, today, when there is opportunity for service and the judicial authorities constantly invite the gentlemen to cooperate, why is it that scholars and seminarists pay such little attention to this important judicial task? If today — God forbid — a blow were to be dealt to the revolution because of our weakness and lack of cooperation we would be perpetrating a sin. Therefore, scholars and clergy of religious seminaries are expected to cooperate with the judicial authorities. In particular they should pay attention to the problem of prisons and the dossiers which still need to be investigated in case those individuals whose stay in prison is not necessary — as the imam, may his shadow never

grow less, has commanded — and whose release would not cause the least harm to the revolution, should languish in prison for no reason.

In this connection, while referring to the fact that a good prosecutor is not necessarily one who convicts many prisoners, he graciously called on the religious judges and public prosecutors throughout the country to heed the views of the leader of the revolution and make arrangements to dispatch a list of individuals whose stay in prison is not essential to the State Supreme Court and the mission appointed by the imam so that — God willing — a large number of these people can be released during the 10 Days of Dawn.

In connection with the stands displayed by extremists in government organs and departments, he once again emphasized: Although I know that such individuals are people who harbor good intentions and want to do some service, they should nevertheless know that the harm caused by their extremism, their interference in the business of administration, and their attempts to brand professors and specialists who are engaged in factories, universities, and other institutions is no less than that of counter-revolution. It would be an improvement and much more fruitful if, instead of using foreign professors to train the country's youth, we were to make use of these very professors who are within the country and who are faithful to their country and the revolution to train these young people. We should not be more revolutionary than the most generous prophet and the immaculate imams; they used to receive people with open arms and respected the good name and dignity of respectable persons, and if someone had slipped in the past, they would accept his repentance.

In conclusion, he prayed for the victory of Islam's combatants and for a long life for the leader of the revolution.

President Khamene'i

LD011431 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT
1 Feb 84

[Excerpts] On the anniversary of the return to the homeland of Imam Khomeini, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the special ceremonies to honor the 10 Days of Dawn of the fifth anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran opened this morning with a speech by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i in the presence of more than 300 religious, scientific, and research officials of universities from 100 countries of the world in Tehran's Esteghlal Hotel.

During a ceremony attended by a number of ministers, administrative officials, Armed Forces personnel, officials in charge of the Islamic propaganda organization, and martyrs' families, Minister of Islamic Guidance Khatami thanked the foreign guests present at the celebrations for honoring the 10 Days of Dawn.

Referring to the war imposed by Iraq on Iran, the minister of Islamic guidance said: The Iraqi regime, having trampled on all Islamic and international guidelines, resorts to immense crimes to deal blows to a revolution which has dealt great blows to the illegitimate interests of the United States and Zionism in

the region and the world. He told the foreign guests: Relying on the natural magnanimity of human beings, the Islamic Revolution has and always will be on the side of the oppressed masses, and the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran which is the fruit of this revolution has been formed through the nation.

Following the speech by the minister of Islamic guidance, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i said in a speech of welcome to the foreign guests and participants in the opening ceremonies of the 10 Days of Dawn: You have really come to your own home. You are participating in ceremonies that in the eyes of our nation are comparable only with the events at the onset of Islam and the time when the prophet — Lord bless him and all his scion — was chosen.

Discussing the goals of the Islamic Revolution of Iran in spreading and glorifying Islam, Mr Khamene'i noted: This struggle which succeeded after 15 years and which is now in its 5th year of victory has two messages: one is for the Muslims of the world and the second for us who have touched this struggle. The message to the Muslims of the world is that it is possible to (?carry out the teachings of Islam), contrary to all the (?statements of the powerful) concerning the impossibility of this, and Muslims must apply Islam to their life and make it their guide. Muslims should realize that such a (?glorious) experience can be regarded as an educational test and be certain that no power is capable of stunting the growth of the Islamic movement among the nations. The message of revolution for those [words indistinct]. In the foreign sphere, it believes in the unity of Muslims, the eradication of the superpowers' influence, and the creation of close ties among the leaders of Islamic nations as well as with their nations and the exclusion of the enemies of Islam and Muslims. He said: (?We believe) that the Islamic forces of the region should unite and eradicate the cancerous growths present in the region. We believe that Muslims [words indistinct] colonial policy planners of the world.

The president then announced support for the Muslim and innocent Lebanese nation, condemned the military occupation of Afghanistan, and [words indistinct] of the Palestinian nation. He said: A powerful [word indistinct] front should be created in the world of Islam, and the Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to make the first move in this respect.

Guards Corps Minister

GF011816 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Qom, Feb. 1, IRNA — A large group of people from various walks of life, ulema and officials attended a special ceremony held here last night marking the 5th anniversary of Imam Khomeyni's home-coming, February 1, 1979.

Addressing audience, minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corp (IRGC) Mohsen Rafiqdust said that this momentous event led to one of the greatest developments in the world history and upset the international balance which had divided the world to two power blocs.

The rule of jurisprudence in Iran, he added, has inspired the Muslim nations of the world to an extent that they have today

risen against colonisers and their subservient governments throughout the region.

While the reactionary rulers of the Islamic countries, said Rafiqdust, got together in Morocco to recognize the Zionist regime and the Camp David accord, the Moroccan nation revolted against their government. This revolt was an indication of the legitimacy and greatness of the Islamic Revolution, he added.

In another part of his address, the IRGC minister referred to the plots of global oppression against the Islamic Revolution saying that these enemies are trying to prevent the Islamic Revolution, which has dealt severe blows to the U.S. and Russia, from being spread outside Iran. It was for the same purpose, he said, that they masterminded the Iraqi imposed war against the Islamic Republic.

Musavi on Effort To Resolve Economic Problems

LD011357 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Excerpts][Prime Minister] Mir-Hoseyn Musavi said at a meeting with a group of preachers and theologians from Tehran last night that the Islamic Revolution is constantly influencing contemporary political history and the organization of the struggle by deprived and oppressed nations against the oppressive powers of the world. He added: Today we are involved in a fateful war for the cause of Islam, and this war should continue until final victory. It is natural for countries involved in a war to suffer distressing conditions such as inflation caused by the war. Under such conditions, special decisions should be made. At the same time, the government is doing its utmost to resolve the problems to combat these conditions. Therefore, the government gives priority to the religious framework in meeting the needs of society. The prime minister added: At present, control of the distribution of essential goods is of obvious importance in order to safeguard the purchasing power of medium and low-income strata against the inflation caused by the war and the economic embargo.

In connection with the operations of the private sector, the prime minister said: Approximately 5,000 proposals to date for private investment in productive areas have been approved in principle, which is indicative of the government's support for the private sector in practice. At the end of this meeting, the prime minister answered a number of questions from the theologians and preachers present.

Energy Minister Explains Power Breakdown

GF301525 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Jan 84

[Interview with Energy Minister Dr Hasan Ghafoori-Fard by Voice of Iran correspondent — date, place not given]

[Text][Begin recording; correspondent] What was the reason for the recent power breakdown and how long will it last? When will it end?

[Ghafuri-Fard] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. The reason for the outages was technical difficulties at the (Neka) power station. The stormy condition of the sea and the channel that transports water from the sea to the power station created technical faults and now we are looking into it so that the problem can be solved. The reason for the (?breakdown) at the (Neka) unit and other units was due to certain problems we have been facing which created an overall problem on the national level. Our request to the whole Muslim martyr-nurturing nation is that, first of all, they should unplug all nonessential appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, high power bulbs, irons, washing machines, and others and from the mains, and, God willing, when the supply is resumed, they should continue to practice austerity so that we can solve this problem quickly, God willing, and do away with the outages.

[Correspondent] When do you think the supply will be restored?

[Ghafuri-Fard] We are still assessing the situation and due to problems caused by the cold at the power house, some of the equipment has frozen. We have to investigate these causes so that they may be pinpointed. But I am sure this inconvenience will continue for a few days and therefore it is necessary for the people's own safety that they unplug their appliances — their refrigerators, freezers, — because when power supply returns they might get shocks and, God forbid, the people should be endangered.

We are trying to get experts (?appointed) to tackle these difficulties as soon as possible so that they may remove these difficulties. It may possibly take some time to completely locate the causes, and we will inform you more about this later, God willing.

[Correspondent] Is it possible to give the extent and location of the damage?

[Ghafuri-Fard] It seems quite extensive. The people are asking the same questions and, in fact, taking up a lot of our time. But I can definitely say it is quite extensive and the technical problems will, God willing, be solved soon and I hope the people's (?inconvenience) will soon be over.

[Correspondent] Yes. I thank you.

[Ghafuri-Fard] You are most welcome. [end recording]

Official Discusses Prison Training Services

GF300700 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 29 Jan 84

[Text] The chairman of the supervisory council for prisons in a press conference talked about the problems of prison and prisoners. He said: Ideological-educational instruction and arts and crafts training to keep prisoners occupied are primary objectives. With the help of the literacy campaign, a great number of prisoners are studying at the elementary and high school levels, and another group is working in prison production units and factories. Right now, the productivity of prisons is at a very high level.

The prisoners also have taken part in the reconstruction of war areas; we are hoping that this work will continue. For the first time anywhere in the world, a health insurance plan for prisoners has been offered in the prisons. Right now, this plan is being implemented in several provinces.

On the occasion of the 10 Days of Dawn celebrations, the supervisory council for prisons has put requested that the Supreme Court pardon several prisoners.

Likelihood of Lebanese Islamic Revolution Viewed

GF301415 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 9 Jan 84 p 12

["Exclusive" interview with Former Ambassador Hojjat ol-Islam Fakhr-Rohani by ETTELA'AT correspondent in Tehran — date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: What do you think is the likelihood that Lebanon will be the site of an Islamic revolution?

Answer: In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. To answer your question, I will say that Lebanon is at the stage that Iran was in mid-1357 (1978-1979) and that if activities continue as they are, Lebanon will reach the stage of an Islamic revolution. If we concentrate on the point that Lebanon is considered the heart of the Arab countries in the Middle East, has been serving as one of the most important information centers of the world for years, and has been serving as a platform from which different ideas have been directed to the rest of the Arab world, we can conclude that the existence of an Islamic movement in that country will result in Islamic movements throughout the Arab world.

To illustrate this, I will give you some facts about Lebanon's political and social situation. Note that these facts and figures are not fiction; they reflect the truth. There are 16 religious sects in Lebanon. Some 65-70 percent of the total population are Muslims, of which about 40 percent are Shi'ites and more than 25 percent are Sunnis. Despite the attachment most Muslim leaders have to foreigners, the Muslim population whether Sunni or Shi'ite view Iran as their brother and the Islamic Revolution as their life saver. There are two reasons for this point of view. Religion is the first reason. Our Sunni brothers like our Shi'ite brothers look to the Islamic Revolution and the imam, since they share the same religious beliefs and are well educated in comparison to their Arab brothers. The second reason is politics. Lebanon has endured years of war instigated by both the East and the West. It has endured cruelty, injustice, and death at the hand of world imperialism. It now believes that the only way to end the rule of the Western Christians and other elements of world imperialism is to implement the policy of "neither East nor West" as it has been established in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On the other hand, you know that the biggest obstacle to starting Islamic movements in the world is the people's attachment to governments. But since the Republic of Lebanon does not have much power, there is no serious obstacle in the way of the people of Lebanon. The cause for all the injustice committed by both the East and the West on the oppressed people of Lebanon is because they are totally opposed to an Islamic movement in that

area. They know that the launching of an Islamic movement in Lebanon without there being a war and in a natural manner will result in there being similar such movements in all the Arab countries. Such an occurrence will deprive the two superpowers, especially the archsatan, of the gains they have obtained in the region and will also threaten the existence of the Zionist entity in the heart of the Middle East.

Question: What would be the result of the civil war between the Druze, the Amal Shi'ite movement, and the Phalangist government of Lebanon on the Islamic movement in Lebanon?

Answer: The fact is that this war is being carried out by agents of the United States to halt the progress of an Islamic movement in Lebanon and to keep the gains of the two superpowers and the Zionists. In other words, to get to know a movement you only need to know the leader of that movement.

The selection of Walid Junblatt by the United States and the Zionist regime to take part in the seven-member committee assigned supposedly to save Beirut and to host Shim'on Peres for 3 days at his private villa, and his close relationship with Fahd, King Husayn, and even Israeli officials, and Junblatt's harsh remarks about the imam and the Islamic Revolution, all prove that he is a U.S. agent. On the other hand, the face of Nabih Birri, who is the forceful head of the leadership council of the Amal Movement, is not unknown. He is very Westernized and has been accused of being a member of the spying organization, the CIA. Therefore, taking into consideration that both leaders of these movements are linked to the United States, we can say that these movements are U.S. engineered and are against an Islamic movement.

Question: Why do various publications, including those of Iran, say that the Ash-Shuf and Beirut fighters were Islamic revolutionaries?

Answer: First, I will explain the reasons why such an interpretation has been made by the mass media and then I will explain why Iranian media has also made such an interpretation. The imperialist and Zionist influence on world wide publications is very apparent and well known.

The colonized media following the request of world imperialism are labeling the hired agents as anti-American heroes and use this plan to reduce any possible friction between Junblatt and Faysal Arslan, the son of Majid Arslan, another leader of the Lebanese Druze. As you know, the colonizers obtain most of their gains by using the smokescreen of peace and security. They want the future of Lebanon to be separate from any revolutionary movement, so they create heroes. The presenting of the hired agents in the Jabal and Beirut areas and Walid Junblatt and Nabih Birri as Muslim revolutionaries are for two reasons: first, to make use of the weakness of the mass media, especially radio and television, to obtain information and the influence of imperialist mass media on other countries' media. Unfortunately, in our mass media there has been no action taken to remedy this situation. Even though the Voice and Vision of Iran follows the political path of the country and is considered the tongue of the Islamic Republic by the people outside the country, I hope that the officials concerned will take necessary steps to solve the

problem. Secondly, the Iranian Embassy in Beirut does not have any facilities. For example, as long as I was responsible person in charge, the embassy did not have adequate staffing. After I left, even those few facilities existing were reduced to a minimum and the person who was suppose to succeed me did not accept the job and did not go to Beirut.

It is natural when a country lacks the necessary facilities in another country, it is not very efficient in carrying out its work and is unable to provide correct information about events. Therefore, the occurrence of mistakes is very likely. Therefore, my proposal to the political officials and the mass media is to pay more attention to the situation in Lebanon and realize that mistakes such as calling the agents of imperialists in Lebanon Muslim revolutionaries will only help the imperialists' plan and this will not make the people of Lebanon happy (except those attached to the West). Since the segregation of Lebanon is taking place to halt the Islamic movement, God will not pardon us for making such mistake as well.

Question: How do you view the break in the relationship between Lebanon and Iran?

Answer: I believe there has been great pressure put on Lebanon by the United States, France, and Israel and problems had occurred which greatly influenced this decision. I believe this decision will result in a loss for both countries. The problem is very solvable and the officials of the two countries should get together and discuss the situation without any interference from another country.

Minister Returns, Comments on Jakarta Conference *LD011327 Tehran IRNA in English 0932 GMT 1 Feb 84*

[Text] Tehran, Feb 1 (IRNA) — Minister of Ershad-e Eslami (Islamic Guidance) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami said here Tuesday that condemnation of imperialist news media monopoly prevailed at the recent conference of ministers of information of non-aligned countries (CMINAC), in Jakarta Indonesia.

Upon his arrival here, from the conference, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khatami pointed out the Islamic Republic's active role in the conference, adding that Iran's presence in various committees and the general session for further familiarising the participants with the ominous nature of news imperialism, as well as that of imperialist military adventures was very effective.

The Islamic Republic's proposals on the support of CMINAC member countries for the UNESCO after the U.S. withdrawal from the organisation, encouragement of the member states in using "Zionist racist regime" or "regime occupying Palestine" in place of the term "Israel," and condemnation of imperialist violation of frequencies against weak countries, and states which put their facilities at the disposal of one or the other superpowers were all approved and reflected in the final resolution.

Iran also proposed formation of a committee, composed of scholars and intellectuals of the non-aligned countries to collect and thus reveal distortion of news by imperialist media, [word

indistinct] some of the participants urged measures to be taken for the strengthening and expansion of news agencies of non-aligned countries for the establishment of a free news system among member states and other countries and for confronting news imperialism.

But, Minister Khatami noted, this proposal failed to achieve a result due to the lack of attention paid by a number of other states.

Referring to the protest of Iraq's representatives at the conference and a number of other delegates against statements of Iranian representatives, Khatami said that Iraqi envoy's so-called humanitarian claims were later rejected when numerous pictures showing savage crimes committed by Iraq against Iranian schools, hospitals, and residential areas, martyring or injuring many innocent women and children, were shown to the participants.

The CMINAC meet ended its five-day work Monday by announcing full support for the UNESCO, measures for new world information order, and strengthening of direct exchange of information and news among NAM [Nonaligned Movement] member states.

Officials Outline Asian Tour Results

LD292152 Tehran IRNA in English 1951 GMT 29 Jan 84

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 29, IRNA — The economic director of Iran's Foreign Ministry today outlined the outcomes of an Iranian delegation's recent tour of Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and India.

The Foreign Ministry official, Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli, said that a great proportion of the population of the above countries share similar customs and religious traditions with the Iranian nation. He said the despatch of an Iranian delegation was felt necessary in order to establish closer ties and strengthen solidarity among the countries in the Indian Ocean region.

It was also necessary for the Islamic Republic to carry out direct trade with those countries, he added. He said while visiting Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore the Iranian delegation met with high ranking officials and handed over them messages from the Iranian foreign minister, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The delegation, he went on, also explained in detail the Iranian stance towards various issues, including the Western media distortions of developments in Iran and the Iraqi imposed war.

He said the delegation also reached agreements with the officials of the host countries on various topics such as increased contacts and trade ties and information exchanges between Iran and those countries as well as increasing the volume of trade. 'Adeli said that the delegation stressed the export of Iranian non-oil goods to the said countries.

The economic director of the Foreign Ministry said following the culmination of the Islamic revolution, the volume of Iran's trade

with third world countries was raised from 4 to 33 percent of its total imports. 'Adeli then referred to the unofficial visit of the delegation to India saying that issues discussed during that visit centred on the imminent visit of an Indian economic delegation to Iran in order to pave the way for expansion of trade relations between the two countries.

He said the delegation also pointed out to the Indian officials the infringement by the Indian firms of trade deals with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Meanwhile, Morteza Pedram the director for the Group 77 countries of Iran's Commerce Ministry outlined the preliminary economic agreements made with the above countries. He said the Iranian delegation concluded agreements with the Sri Lankan officials about export of Iranian non-oil goods to that country.

In Indonesia, he added, it was agreed that more coordination be established concerning a unified stance in the OPEC between Iran and Indonesia.

Musavi, Gandhi Exchange Anniversary Messages

LD311258 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Jan 84

[Text] On the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, Indian Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi sent congratulations to Prime Minister Musavi. The text of the message is:

Your Excellency, Mr Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran:

On the fifth anniversary of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, I present my warm congratulations. The ancient tradition of cooperation, in the social, cultural, and economic fields exists between our nations. God willing, these friendly relations will strengthen more than ever. I express my good will and sincere wishes for good health for Your Excellency and prosperity and progress for the friendly nation of Iran.

[Signed] Indira Gandhi, prime minister of India

In reply to Mrs Gandhi's congratulatory message, Prime Minister Musavi sent the following message to the Indian prime minister:

In His exalted name. Your Ladyship, Mrs Indira Gandhi, prime minister of the Republic of India:

I thank you for your congratulations on the fifth anniversary of the Islamic Revolution of Iran. Our nation looks upon the Indian nation as an old acquaintance and sees the roots of this acquaintance in cultural, social, and economic ties over many centuries. I pray to God for success for your nation and all nations which strive for their freedom. I hope that, with the efforts of the

authorities of the two countries, we will witness the growth and blossoming of these friendly relations in every field.

[Signed] Mr Hoseyn Musavi, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Velayati Meets With Indian Special Envoy

LD290023 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT

28 Jan 84

[Text] Rafiq Zakaria, member of the Indian Parliament and special envoy of Mrs Gandhi, today met with Mr Velayati, minister of foreign affairs. At this meeting, while emphasizing the friendly relations between the two countries and the need to expand political, economic, cultural, and trade relations, the participants discussed the exchange of delegations between the two countries.